

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) continued his commitment to small businesses today - voting, along with a bipartisan majority, to decrease unnecessary regulatory controls and help businesses secure affordable health insurance. This week Arcuri also voted to reauthorize programs to assist small businesses owned by women and veterans.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, in the 24th district and across the country, and we must do everything possible to create an economic environment in which small businesses can thrive and flourish,” said Arcuri. “Americans depend on small businesses to drive the economy and provide essential everyday services. These bills will help small businesses avoid unnecessary and burdening regulations, provide health care to more workers, and strengthen programs to help anyone who has a dream to own their own business achieve that dream.”

The Small Business Administration Entrepreneurial Development Programs Act of 2007 (H.R. 2359) would require the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy to provide regulatory oversight to weed out unnecessary and unused regulations and make sure regulations are up-to-date with the current business climate. The Office of Advocacy would determine what regulations have significantly impacted a substantial number of small businesses, and then petition the respective agencies for review of such regulations. The bill would also authorize the SBA to establish a regulatory compliance assistance program through the Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in order to ensure that small businesses have access to information and resources that better enable them to comply with current federal and state regulations.

H.R. 2359 would also provide specific grants to SBDCs to help small businesses find affordable health insurance. These grants would help small business owners identify affordable health insurance for their business and employees.

This week, the house also passed H.R.2397 to reauthorize the women’s entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration and H.R.2366 to reauthorize the veterans’ entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration.

“It’s a constant struggle for many small businesses to stay open. Costs continue to skyrocket and larger companies are pushing out Mom and Pop stores in cities and towns across the

country,” said Arcuri. “People in Upstate New York have experienced this loss of economic activity first-hand, but that trend doesn’t have to continue.”

In April, as a member of the House Rules Committee, Arcuri guided The Small Business Lending Improvements Act (H.R. 1332) through the House. H.R. 1332 would strengthen access to capital programs for small businesses, encourage private health care providers to establish practices in underserved areas, and provide small business loan support for veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In February, Arcuri also shepherded The Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2007 (H.R. 976) through the House to allow for \$1.3 billion in tax relief for small businesses.

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